

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 04140 012159Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 011950Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9392
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4140

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EXDIS

FOR ARA, D AND L ONLY

PASS PROPPER AT JUSTICE

BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGATT
E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: STATE 136986

1. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION MAY 31 GENERAL OROZCO, MILITARY PROSECUTOR
IN THE LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HE
WANTED THE EMBASSY TO KNOW THAT HIS SLOW PROGRESS IS NOT FROM LACK
OF EFFORT, BUT IS DUE PRIMARILY TO THE NECESSITY OF BUILDING A
CASE THAT MEETS THE STANDARDS OF CHILEAN (NOT U.S.) LAW. HE
COMPLAINED THAT ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY PROPPER DOES NOT APPEAR
TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND CHILEAN CRIMINAL
LAW. WHEREAS PROPPER SEEMS TO BE RELYING HEAVILY ON THE TESTIMONY
OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY IN BUILDING HIS CASE, UNDER CHILEAN LAW,
OROZCO EXPLAINED, THE TESTIMONY OF A SINGLE WITNESS CARRIES
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NO WEIGHT UNLESS IT IS CORROBORATED BY OTHER WITNESSES. EVEN
THOUGH HE PERSONALLY OBTAINED A "CONFESSION" FROM TOWNLEY
DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, OROZCO CONTINUED, IT WILL BE OF
LITTLE VALUE TO HIM IN PROSECUTING THE CASE IN CHILE UNLESS
HE OBTAINS SUCH CORROBORATION. HE INDICATED HE IS NOT YET
HAVING MUCH SUCCESS.

2. OROZCO REFERRED TO DOCUMENTS/EVIDENCE REQUESTED FROM PROPPER BUT NOT YET RECEIVED. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY A COPY OF LETELIER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE AND A DIAGRAM OF THE SITE OF THE FATAL EXPLOSION. (COMMENT: THESE MAY BE INCLUDED IN RESPONSES REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL).

3. PRESS THIS MORNING CONTAINS SMALL ITEM NOTING THAT OROZCO IS TAKING TESTIMONY TODAY FROM A GROUP OF PERSONS, IDENTIFYING BY NAME ONLY RAUL ITURRIAGA NEUMANN. STORY CONCLUDES WITH "ESTIMATE" THAT OROZCO WILL CONCLUDE INVESTIGATION INTO LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE ABOUT MID-JUNE.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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